

Abstract of the Disclosure

A cache system for storing request messages expressed in Extended Markup Language (XML) and the responses to those messages. The inbound request message, which typically takes the form of an HTTP request message containing an XML request document as its payload, is received via the Internet from a remote sender. The XML request portion of the inbound message is then translated into canonical form, preferably conforming to the predetermined standard canonical form established as an Internet standard. The canonical XML request is then compared with previously received canonical requests. To speed the process of comparing the inbound canonical XML request with previously cached XML requests, an access key, such as a checksum or a hash integer, is generated from the content of the inbound request. The access key is then used to identify zero or more prior canonical requests which may match the inbound canonical request. A character-by-character comparison is then made between the inbound canonical request and those cached requests that share the same access key to determine whether a match exists. If a match is found, the cached response previously sent in response to the matching prior canonical request is returned to the remote sender. If a match is not found, the requested information is retrieved and packaged into a response message which is returned to the sender, and the both the keyed canonical XML request and the response are placed in cache memory.